

Application No.: 09/896,655

Case No.: 56719US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 25-34 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Disclosure Objection

Claim 15 was objected to. The Patent Office stated that it was unable to find in the specification description of a scrim and how the adhesive comprises a scrim, wherein the scrim is an electro-conductive filler.

Applicants point to page 14, lines 8-20 of the specification for a description of scrim(s) suitable for use in the instant invention and for methods of incorporation of scrim(s) into the electrically conductive adhesive of the invention.

Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 15 be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 12, 14, 16-19, 23, 24, 35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christian (US 6,060,230).

The present invention provides an electrically conductive adhesive composition comprising a polymeric adhesive component; an electrically conductive filler incorporated into the adhesive component; and a clay component incorporated into the adhesive component, said clay component comprising an organophilic clay. (See, e.g., independent claims 12 and 35, emphasis added.) An organophilic clay is preferably a clay that has been surface-modified to convert at least a portion of its surface nature from a hydrophilic state to an organophilic state. (See, page 18, lines 30-33.) Preferably, at least about 50% of exchangeable cations on unmodified hydrophilic clay are exchanged with organophilic modifying cations. (See, page 19, lines 6-7.) Smectite clays are examples of hydrophilic clays from which the organophilic clays of the present invention may be derived. (See, page 19, lines 8-14, emphasis added.)

Christian describes an imaging element that includes swellable clays, such as smectite clay particles. (See, c.g., Abstract, and col. 7, line 56 – col. 8, line 6.) The Patent Office has not shown where Christian describes, teaches or suggests the use of organophilic clays, as required in

Application No.: 09/896,655

Case No.: 56719US002

the present invention. Thus, the Patent Office has not shown that Christian describes all of the limitations of the present invention.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 12 and 35 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christian is unwarranted and should be withdrawn. Claims 14, 16-19, 23, and 24 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 12. Claim 12 is patentable for the reasons stated above, thus claims 14, 16-19, 23, and 24 are likewise patentable.

In summary, the rejection of claims 12, 14, 16-19, 23, 24 and 35 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christian is unwarranted and should be withdrawn

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 13, 20-22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Christian (US 6,060,230) in view of Hansen (US 5,672,400).

Claims 13, 20 and 22 depend from claim 12. As discussed above, the Patent Office has not shown that Christian describes, teaches or suggests the use of organophilic clays, as required in claim 12. Likewise, the Patent Office has not shown that Hansen overcomes this deficiency.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 13, and 20-22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Christian in view of Hansen is unwarranted and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. If any questions or issues remain, the resolution of which the Patent Office feels would be advanced by a conference with the applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact such attorney at the telephone number noted below

Allowance of claims 12-14,16-24 and 35 at an early date is solicited. In addition, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of claims 25-34.

Application No.: 09/896,655

Case No.: 56719US002

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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